



# Wildlands Update for February

## General Recreation Notes

Current Snow Conditions (as of 01/31/07): Most public lands that permit snowmachines now have enough snow to protect underlying vegetation. Ptarmigan Valley, Peters Creek, and Anchorage Hillside in Chugach State Park, however, are currently closed. With the recent warming, please check for current snow conditions and avalanche danger. Visit the web sites below or call the agencies directly:

**Chugach State Park:** <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

**Nancy Lake and Denali State Parks:** <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/nancydenali.htm>

**Hatcher Pass:**

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/hatcherpass.htm>

**Turnagain Pass/Girdwood Valley:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/glacier/advisory.html>

**Avalanche information:** <http://www.avalanche.org>

Please do not harass winter wildlife! Please view and photograph animals from a distance. Remember, the energy and fat these animals are forced to burn by being stressed could determine whether they survive the winter. With recent snows throughout the state, please be aware that moose are using roadways more often.

## Road Closures:

The Denali Highway from Cantwell to Paxson is closed; the Taylor Highway is closed from the Alaska Highway Junction to Eagle at MP160. The Top

of the World Highway is closed at U.S. Customs. For updated road conditions throughout the state including internet camera views, visit

<http://511.alaska.gov/> or dial 511 in Alaska, (866) 282-7577 outside Alaska.

**Wildlife Wednesdays**, a monthly program at the Anchorage Loussac Library's Marston Theater, will be featuring "Beaver, Salmon, Gold and Greed – Our Love Affair with Southeast Alaska" at 7:00pm on February 14.

**Science for Alaska**, is a weekly program held Mondays at 7:15pm in the UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium. February's programs focus on global climate change, volcanoes, glaciers and beluga whales. For a calendar, please go to <http://www.scienceforalaska.com> or call (907) 474-7558.

## Alaska State Parks

2007 Alaska State Decals for day use are available for purchase for \$40 at various sport stores, government offices, and on-line. Remember, to operate a snowmobile on state land, you must register it with the Division of Motor Vehicles. State Parks current events can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>.

### Chugach State Park

Campgrounds remain closed for the winter. A 24-hour recorded message with status for snowmachine areas can be heard at (907) 269-8400, extension "1". Eklutna, North Fork at Eagle River and Bird Valley remain open to snowmachines. Call (907) 345-5014 for more information.

## Matsu Area State Parks

### Nancy Lake State Recreation Area

The gate at mile 2.2 of the Nancy Lake Parkway is closed to highway vehicles. Ski conditions are good. The winter trail to Red Shirt Lake was groomed on 1/12.

### Hatcher Pass

The Nordic ski trails within the Independence Mine Bowl are in good condition (this area is closed to snowmachining). Good sledding can be found near the Independence Bowl Parking lot; good skiing and snowboarding can be found at higher elevations. Snowmachining is open in designated areas (from Gold Mint to the summit).

### Denali State Park

Byers Lake Cabin #3, a new cabin located 70 yards south of the Byers Lake Cabin #2, is now open for reservations. Snowmachining opened 1/12 with a 27" base.

For more information about Matsu Area State Parks, call (907) 745-3975.

## Bureau of Land Management

February is a big month for public comment. The North Slope Caribou Research and Monitoring Workshop is Feb. 21-22 in Fairbanks, the Tangle

## Some good websites

Alaska outdoor information:

<http://www.nps.gov/aplic>

Alaska weather information:

<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>

Alaska Volcano Observatory :

<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/>

Sunrise-Sunset:

<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/>

Road Conditions:

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

Lakes Archaeological District Travel Management Draft Environmental Assessment will be available in mid-February, and the public comment period for the (Bristol and Goodnews) Bay Draft Resource Management Plan and EIS has been extended to Feb. 5. For more information, visit <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>

### **National Park Service**

The National Parks Conservation Association welcomes world-class athlete Nora Tobin for a program on February 6th, "Bacon and Bears Along Aniakchak River," a trip to Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve. From ascents into the "Ring of Fire" to pack-rafting the Aniakchak River, Nora will share the many wonders of this special place. The event is held at 7:00pm at REI in Anchorage.

### **Kenai Fjords National Park**

Summer use cabins in the park are now available for rent. Rental period is May 25 through September 9. Aialik Bay cabin is closed for maintenance from July 9-27 and Holgate Arm cabin is closed for maintenance June 4-14. Reservations can be made by calling (907) 271-2737 or in person at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage.

The Willow Public Use Cabin, 7 miles from Box Canyon Gate, is available for rent this winter. Reservations are required and can be made in person at the Park Headquarters in Seward or by calling 224-7500. For further park information, visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/kefj>.

### **Denali National Park and Preserve**

Check the web for info on the Winterfest celebration to be held in the park February 23-25! All of 1980 Additions to Denali National Park and Preserve are now open to snowmobiling for traditional activities. Park staff is offering 2-3 hour guided hikes, weather-permitting, on Saturdays and Sundays all winter. Visitors are welcome to stop at the Murie Science and Learning Center from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily. Riley Creek campground remains open, but provides no services. For more info on winter activities download the Denali Winter Alpenglow at <http://www>.

[nps.gov/dena](http://nps.gov/dena) Bus and campground reservations for the 2007 visitor season can be made on-line, by mail or by fax. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/bus-reservations.htm> for instructions. For further information call (907) 683-2294 in Denali NP or (907) 733-2231 in Talkeetna.

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge February 3rd is Family Fun Day. Visit the historic Andrew Berg cabin or take a guided snowshoe hike (snowshoes provided). Areas traditionally open to snow machining have received enough snow to protect underlying vegetation (visit the web site for maps denoting these areas). The refuge also offers 13 public use cabins. Winter visitor center hours are 8:00am-4:30pm on weekdays and 10:00am-5:00pm on weekends. For winter activity information, please go to <http://kenai.fws.gov/VisitorsEducators/visiting/winter/winter.htm>

### **National Forest Service**

#### **Chugach National Forest**

Watch the web site for special events concerning their 100th Anniversary! All designated snowmachine areas in the Chugach National Forest are open for use. Walk-in camping is allowed at campgrounds in the winter, but no services are provided. For more info, call the Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242 or the Seward Ranger District (907) 224-3374. For internet updates visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach>.

### **Southcentral Visitor Centers**

#### **Eagle River Nature Center**

Located at mile 12 of Eagle River Road, ERNC is open Fridays & weekends, 10am-5pm. Sign up for field trips on snow studies, winter survival, and animal tracking. There is a \$5.00 parking fee that is not covered by the Alaska State Parks day use pass. Check their website at <http://www.ernc.org> or call (907) 694-2108 for more information.

#### **Campbell Creek Science Center**

The Center is open Monday through Friday 7:30am-4pm. The 4th annual Winter Trails Day occurs on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10:30 am until 4 pm. This program promotes winter safety and

family involvement in outdoor winter activities. Other programs include the Fireside Chat Series program "Making Your Voice Heard: Land Management and You!" at 7:00pm on February 21 and The Astronomy Series program "Professional Telescopes" held at 7:00pm on February 8. For a calendar of events, call (907) 267-1247 or check the website at

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/events.html>

### **Begich-Boggs Visitor Center**

The visitor center will be closed on weekends during the winter, but is open during the week to scheduled school groups. Call (907) 783-2326 for more information or visit the website at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach\\_pages/bbvc.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html)

### **Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center**

The Center will be open noon to 5:00pm, Tuesday through Saturday. The Center will present films and story time during a winter festival on February 10th. A listing of 2007 summer programs is now available online. For more information call (907) 235-6961 or visit <http://www.islandsandoccean.org/>.

### **Alaska Public Lands Information Centers**

The **Downtown Anchorage** location is open 10:00am-5:00pm weekdays during the winter. Stop by to enjoy the exhibits and movies or purchase a gift from the ANHA store. The Center will be open on Saturday March 3rd for the Iditarod start! Call (907) 271-2737 or go to <http://www.nps.gov/aplic> for more information.

The **Fairbanks** visitor center is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10:00am-6:00pm. Join the program on the northern lights on February 15th and planning a visit to Katmai on February 22nd, both at 7:00 pm. Stop by during the Yukon Quest closing ceremonies! Call (907) 456-0527 for more information or go to <http://www.nps.gov/aplic> to get the latest scheduled program information.

The **Tok Center** location is open Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Call (907) 883-5667 for more information. Updated 01/31/07